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**Testimony before the Legislature's Appropriations and Human Services
Committees Considering a Proposed Waiver to Cut Eligibility for the Medicaid
LIA Program**

Good afternoon, members of the committees. My name is Danielle Del Monaco and I live in New Haven. I live with Endometriosis Disease, which causes chronic severe pelvic pain 24/7. I can no longer bend over or sit too long because of my discomforts. The best explanation is like having a really Bad period & UTI infection all at the same time! I have had cervical cancer twice. I have been on & off of the Medical programs run by DSS for over 18yrs. I really can't work because of my medical condition, and have applied for SSI. My husband and I barely are getting by, since my husband lost his business in Nov. 2009.

At one time, it was easy to apply to DSS for Medical Coverage only, through the SAGA medical program. But, in the last few years, I have increasing difficulty in applying for coverage. In the last three years, I have been continuously applying for coverage. This is most recently through the Medicaid LIA program. But I have only been denied- or my application not acted upon-- over & over. I have always complied with the state's requests for info or verifications. But now they just can't keep up any more! Things seem to be misplaced routinely, needed information is not timely requested and submitted information seems to never be processed on time...

So, in my case, since Dec. 1 of last year, the system has not been able to process my paperwork to apply for LIA Medicaid. Because nothing was happening, I filed an appeal and had a hearing on April 20th. After the hearing, the hearing officer issued an order, on June 25th. The order required DSS to reopen my application for LIA Medicaid, effective

December of 2011 and to continue to process my eligibility by sending me a form known as a "W-1348" requesting any missing verifications. The order told the DSS worker to do this by July 9th and said the that worker would have to give me ten days to comply. But even with an official order from a hearing officer instructing the worker that my case had to be properly processed, the system once again failed me: No "W-1348" Form was sent to me by July 9th. And my many calls to my worker only reached a voice mailbox which is "full".

I only was able to get something out of DSS after I contacted legal services and they in turn contacted a supervisor at DSS. The W-1348 which the agency was ordered to send out to me by July 9th was only then sent out on July 19th—I received it this past Friday. Almost everything they asked for was asked for previously and provided by me. After I submit the requested information again, it likely will be ignored, as it has been in the past.

All I need is my Medical card. I am mentally and physically being drained from worrying over my health. The Endometriosis has already taken a part of my large Intestine and it took my Appendix. Now, the disease is compressing my small Intestine and my Bladder, causing me to pee blood everyday. And I live in severe pain 24/7. I need surgeries and testing, and my doctor has major concerns of what could happen to me. If I don't get Medical Coverage, I can't get those treatments. As it stands, I can't get OB/GYN services at Yale Primary Care Clinic because of this insurance problem.

We don't have anything like \$10,000 in assets so imposing that requirement, as proposed in the waiver, won't make me ineligible. But DSS has demonstrated it is already unable to process my application for LIA in a timely fashion even when specifically ordered to do so even when there is no asset limit at all. I don't believe that DSS will be able to timely process the new information I send to them about our very limited assets. The new asset rules will just mean that they will get even further behind in processing the LIA applications for individuals, like me, who are **eligible** under the new rules, as well as the old ones, but can't access medical care under Medicaid.

I urge you to reject this ill-considered proposal. Can I inspire you to reconsider? Thank you for allowing me to tell my story today.